
DIGEST

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Pope

HB No. 246

Abstract: Exempts from ad valorem tax, \$150,000 of the value of property receiving the homestead exemption which is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100%. Further requires that the exemption shall only extend and apply if established through an election called by the local governing authority and approved by a majority of the registered voters in an election held for that purpose.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that, in addition to the homestead exemption which applies to the first \$7,500 of the assessed valuation of property, the next \$7,500 of the assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption which is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100% by the U. S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs shall be exempt from ad valorem tax. Further provides that this exemption shall apply to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a disability rating of 100% if the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran and the surviving spouse remains the owner of the property.

Proposed constitutional amendment further provides that if property eligible for the exemption provided for in the proposed constitutional amendment has an assessed value in excess of \$15,000, ad valorem property taxes shall apply to the assessment in excess of \$15,000.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that notwithstanding any other provision of the present constitution, the assessment of a property for which this exemption has been claimed, shall not be treated as taxable property for purposes of any subsequent reappraisals and valuation for millage adjustment purposes under present constitution. Further provides that the decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected by a taxing authority as a result of the exemption shall be absorbed by the taxing authority and shall not create any additional tax liability for other taxpayers in the taxing district as a result of any subsequent reappraisal and valuation or millage adjustment. Implementation of the exemption shall neither trigger nor be cause for a reappraisal of property, or an adjustment of millages pursuant to the provisions of the present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the exemption shall only extend and apply in a parish if it is established through an election which shall be called by either an ordinance or a resolution from the parish governing authority. The proposition shall state that the exemption shall extend and apply in the parish and become effective only after the question of its adoption has been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the parish voting in an election held for that purpose.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 2, 2010.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §21(K))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Added a provision to cap the amount of the exemption to the next \$7,500 of assessed valuation of the property in excess of the homestead exemption thereby exempting \$150,000 of the value of property from ad valorem tax.
2. Prohibited the loss of revenue associated with this exemption from impacting the calculation of millage rates by taxing authorities. Further required taxing authorities to absorb the loss of revenue as a result of this exemption and prohibits the exemption from creating any additional tax liability for other property taxpayers.
3. Prohibited implementation of the exemption from triggering reappraisal of property or adjustment of millages.
4. Added provision that the exemption shall only extend and apply if established through an election called by the local governing authority and approved by a majority of the registered voters in an election held for that purpose.